

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In the December 11, 2003, Office Action, page 2, the Examiner requested information on paragraph [0007] and objected to claim 13. The Examiner also rejected claims 32-34 under 35 USC 102(b) and claims 1-6, 18, 20-34 under 35 USC 103(a). In the body of the office action however, the Examiner indicated that claim 22 was objected to (and not rejected) as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independant form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Paragraph [0007] has been amended in view of the Examiner's comments. Specifically, the applicant notes that related art ATV 100 is prior art to the present application. This ATV first described in US patent application 09/057,652 incorporated by reference into the provisional application serial no. 60/229,027 incorporated by reference into the present application. In consequence, Figure 2A has been amended and is now labeled as "Prior Art".

Applicant disagrees however with the Examiner that Figure 2A would appear to be "readable" on at least some of the claims. The ATV of Figure 2A has the air-intake system of Figure 3, which is different from the claimed invention, in that, for example, the air inlet (212) is on the front part of the vehicle, close to the handlebars. Applicant is limiting its comments in respect of this vehicle since the Examiner has not yet made any specific rejections in view thereof. Applicant will respond to any specific rejection the Examiner may make in the future, at that time.

Claim 13 was objected to by the Examiner and has been amended taking into account the Examiner's proposal to replace "of" by "over". Applicants believe amended claim 13 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 22 has been objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim. Claim 22 was rewritten in an independant form and now includes all the limitations of independant claim 18. No new matter was

added. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn and the claim be allowed.

Claims 7, 9-12, 14, 16 and 17 are already allowed.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the entire application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan D. Cutler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jonathan D. Cutler, Reg. No. 40,576

Attorney for the Applicant

Tel: 450.461.7700

Fax: 450.461.7833